part of Madras-Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam-Calcutta long distance optical fibre link, some exchanges will have the facility.

(b) Eluru, Tadepalligudem and Kovur will be the telephone exchanges to be linked by the above scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No comments in view of (c) above.

D.O.T.'s Training Facilities to Employees of Private Sectors

2664. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom is working out a programme to allow training of private sector's employees at D.O.T.'s training facilities;

(b) if so, the details of such programmes;

(c) whether efficient running and efficient coordination between D.O.T. and private sector operators will result in lower service costs to the public; and

(d) what innovative measures Government propose to take to make best use of all facilities to reduce costs of phone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) The private sector employees are eligible to avail training facilities at D.O.T.'s training centres on payment of prescribed fees subject to, however, availability of slots and individual's suitability to respective training course.

(c) and (d) National Telecom Policy, 1994 allows companies registered in India to participate in the expansion of the Telecommunication Network. The implementation of the said policy envisages to protect and promote the interests of the consumers and ensure fair competition. A competitive situation is expected to result into better services at lower costs.

Setting up of Autonomous Body

2665. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering setting up of an independent, autonomous body with quasi-judicial powers to ensure fair competition and resolution of disputes amongst various operators of telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how does Government propose to install adequate machinery to ensure smooth running of telecom services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

C.I.I. Programmes for Telecom Sector

2666. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has submitted 10 point programme for private sector participation in the expansion of telecom sector in the country;

(b) whether Government has examined the suggestion of CII in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has submitted a paper wherein they have given their perception on implementation of the National Telecom Policy.

(b) and (c) Suggestions received from CII and other organisations will be taken into account while formulating entry guidelines for implementation of National Telecom. Policy.